

12-276-cv  
Steel Institute of New York v. City of New York

1  
2 **UNITED STATES COURT OF APPEALS**

3  
4 **FOR THE SECOND CIRCUIT**

5  
6 August Term, 2012

7  
8  
9 (Argued: December 20, 2012 Decided: May 7, 2013)

10  
11 Docket No. 12-276

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13 - - - - -x

14  
15 STEEL INSTITUTE OF NEW YORK,

16  
17 Plaintiff-Appellant,

18  
19 - v.-

20  
21 CITY OF NEW YORK,

22  
23 Defendant-Appellee.

24  
25 - - - - -x

26  
27 Before: JACOBS, Chief Judge, CALABRESI and SACK,  
28 Circuit Judges.

29  
30 The Steel Institute of New York appeals the judgment of  
31 the United States District Court for the Southern District  
32 of New York (McMahon, J.), which granted the City of New  
33 York's cross-motion for summary judgment and dismissed the  
34 complaint, alleging that the City's regulation of cranes and  
35 other hoisting equipment is preempted by federal law. For  
36 the following reasons, we affirm.

1 BRIAN A. WOLF, Smith, Currie &  
2 Hancock, LLP, Fort Lauderdale,  
3 Florida (J. Daniel Puckett,  
4 Smith, Currie & Hancock, LLP,  
5 Atlanta, Georgia, on the brief),  
6 for Appellant.  
7

8 TAHIRIH M. SADRIEH (Edward F. X.  
9 Hart and Karen Selvin, on the  
10 brief), for Michael A. Cardozo,  
11 Corporation Counsel of the City  
12 of New York, New York, New York,  
13 for Appellee.  
14

15 M. Patricia Smith, Solicitor of  
16 Labor, U.S. Department of Labor,  
17 Washington, D.C. (Joseph M.  
18 Woodward, Charles F. James, and  
19 Allison G. Kramer, on the  
20 brief), for the Secretary of  
21 Labor as Amicus Curiae in  
22 Support of Appellee.  
23

24  
25 DENNIS JACOBS, Chief Judge:  
26

27 The Steel Institute of New York, advancing the  
28 interests of the construction industry, sues the City of New  
29 York challenging local statutes and regulations that govern  
30 the use of cranes, derricks, and other hoisting equipment in  
31 construction and demolition. The Steel Institute argues  
32 that they are preempted by the Occupational Safety and  
33 Health Act (the "Act") and federal standards promulgated by  
34 the Occupational Safety and Health Administration ("OSHA").  
35 The United States District Court for the Southern District

1 of New York (McMahon, J.) dismissed the suit on summary  
2 judgment. We affirm.

4 **I**

5 The Steel Institute sought declaratory and injunctive  
6 relief invalidating the City regulations listed in the  
7 margin<sup>1</sup> on the grounds that they are preempted by the Act  
8 and OSHA's regulations, violate the dormant Commerce Clause,  
9 and violate the Steel Institute's procedural and substantive  
10 due process rights.

11 Cross-motions for summary judgment were stayed pending  
12 the ongoing amendment of OSHA's crane regulations, which  
13 were published August 9, 2010, and went into effect November  
14 8, 2010. The preamble of the amended regulations added a  
15 statement on "federalism," which referenced this lawsuit and  
16 disclaimed preemption of "any non-conflicting local or  
17 municipal building code designed to protect the public from  
18 the hazards of cranes." Cranes and Derricks in  
19 Construction, 75 Fed. Reg. 47,906, 48,129 (Aug. 9, 2010).  
20 The cross-motions were re-filed with addenda dealing with

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<sup>1</sup> N.Y.C. Admin. Code §§ 28-3316.1-.6, .7.1-.8, 3319.1, .3-.8.7, .8.8(3)-(4), .8.8(6)-(7), .9-.9.2; Reference Standard 19-2 §§ 3.0-8.1, 9.0, 10.0, 13.1-21, 22.2-30.0. See J.A. 2.

1 the amendments. The Department of Labor filed an amicus  
2 curiae brief in the district court in support of the City's  
3 position, as it has here.

4 The district court granted the City's cross-motion for  
5 summary judgment in December 2011, chiefly relying on Gade  
6 v. National Solid Wastes Management Ass'n, 505 U.S. 88  
7 (1992). See Steel Inst. of N.Y. v. City of N.Y., 832 F.  
8 Supp. 2d 310, 320-32 (S.D.N.Y. 2011). Although the court  
9 recognized that the City regulations directly and  
10 substantially regulate worker safety and health in an area  
11 where an OSHA standard exists (which usually would trigger  
12 preemption), the court concluded that the City regulations  
13 are saved from preemption under Gade because they are laws  
14 of "general applicability." Id. at 323-27. "[C]onsiderable  
15 deference" was given to the Secretary of Labor's  
16 interpretation of the preemptive effect of the Act and the  
17 OSHA regulations. Id. at 328. The district court also  
18 summarily dismissed the Commerce Clause and due process  
19 claims. Id. at 332-37. The Steel Institute's appeal  
20 challenges only the ruling on preemption.

21 We review de novo an order granting summary judgment,  
22 drawing all factual inferences in favor of the non-moving

1 party. Costello v. City of Burlington, 632 F.3d 41, 45 (2d  
2 Cir. 2011). Summary judgment is appropriate when "there is  
3 no genuine dispute as to any material fact and the movant is  
4 entitled to judgment as a matter of law." Fed. R. Civ. P.  
5 56(a). No material fact is at issue in this case.

## 6 7 II

8 The federal government regulates worker safety through  
9 the Occupational Safety and Health Act, which is  
10 administered by OSHA. See 29 U.S.C. §§ 651-78. The Act  
11 authorizes promulgation of occupational safety or health  
12 standards, id. § 655, that are "reasonably necessary or  
13 appropriate to provide safe or healthful employment and  
14 places of employment," id. § 652(8). It is significant to  
15 our analysis that the Act does not protect the general  
16 public, but applies only to employers and employees in  
17 workplaces. See, e.g., id. § 651(b)(1).

18 In the absence of a federal standard, the Act allows  
19 states to regulate occupational safety or health issues.  
20 Id. § 667(a). If there is a federal standard in place, a  
21 state may submit a "State plan" for the Secretary's approval  
22 by which the state "assume[s] responsibility for development

1 and enforcement" of occupational safety and health standards  
2 in the area covered by the federal standard. Id. § 667(b)-  
3 (c).

4 OSHA has promulgated regulations concerning the use of  
5 cranes, derricks, and hoisting equipment: 29 C.F.R. § 1926  
6 Subpart CC governs "Cranes and Derricks in Construction,"  
7 and Subpart DD governs "Cranes and Derricks Used in  
8 Demolition and Underground Construction." The federal  
9 standards apply to "power-operated equipment, when used in  
10 construction, that can hoist, lower and horizontally move a  
11 suspended load," including various types of cranes,  
12 derricks, trucks, and other hoisting equipment. 29 C.F.R.  
13 § 1926.1400(a).

14 Among other things, the federal rules regulate:

- 15 • ground conditions that support cranes and similar  
16 equipment, id. § 1926.1402;  
17
- 18 • procedures and conditions for design, assembly,  
19 disassembly, operation, testing, and maintenance of the  
20 machinery, id. §§ 1926.1403, .1417, .1412, .1433;  
21
- 22 • proximity of the equipment to power lines during  
23 assembly, operation, and disassembly, id.  
24 §§ 1926.1407-.1411;  
25
- 26 • proximity of employees to the machinery and hoisted  
27 loads, id. §§ 1926.1424-.1425;  
28
- 29 • signaling between workers, id. §§ 1926.1419-.1422;  
30

- 1 • fall protection for workers, id. § 1926.1423; and
- 2
- 3 • worker qualification, certification, and training,
- 4 id. §§ 1926.1427-.1430.

5 OSHA has authority to enter and inspect regulated worksites,  
6 and may enforce the regulations through citations, monetary  
7 penalties, criminal penalties, and by seeking injunctive  
8 relief. See, e.g., 29 U.S.C. §§ 662, 666.

### 10 III

11 The City's crane regulations<sup>2</sup> are part of the Building  
12 Code and are enforced by the New York City Department of  
13 Buildings ("DOB"). See N.Y.C. Admin. Code §§ 28-101.1,  
14 -201.3. "The purpose of [the City's construction code,  
15 which includes the Building Code,] is to provide reasonable  
16 minimum requirements and standards . . . for the regulation  
17 of building construction in the city of New York in the  
18 interest of public safety, health, [and] welfare . . . ."  
19 Id. § 28-101.2.

20 The statutes at issue in this case are codified in  
21 Chapter 33 of the Building Code, which concerns "Safeguards  
22 During Construction or Demolition." At the outset, Chapter

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<sup>2</sup> Although the City regulations are referenced in this opinion as "crane regulations," they apply to other equipment as well, including derricks and hoists.

1 33 delineates its scope: "The provisions of this chapter  
2 shall govern the conduct of all construction or demolition  
3 operations with regard to the safety of the public and  
4 property. For regulations relating to the safety of persons  
5 employed in construction or demolition operations, OSHA  
6 Standards shall apply." Id. § 28-3301.1.

7 In the district court, the City adduced evidence of  
8 local accidents caused by cranes, derricks, and other  
9 hoists. J.A. 134-97. For the period 2004 through 2009, the  
10 City cited fifteen instances of hoisting equipment failures  
11 that caused injury to twenty-seven members of the public and  
12 fifteen workers, and the deaths of one member of the public  
13 and eight workers. J.A. 136. Relying on a declaration from  
14 a DOB engineer, the district court found that "because New  
15 York City is the most densely populated major city in the  
16 United States, construction worksites necessarily abut, or  
17 even spill over into adjoining lots and public streets."  
18 Steel Inst., 832 F. Supp. 2d at 314. "Cranes therefore pose  
19 a unique risk to public safety in New York City--at least  
20 when they are used away from isolated commercial or  
21 industrial yards." Id.



1 Generally, the City requires that hoisting equipment  
 2 "be installed, operated, and maintained to eliminate hazard  
 3 to the public or to property."<sup>3</sup> N.Y.C. Admin. Code

4 § 28-3316.2. Specific requirements on hoisting equipment  
 5 include:

- 6 • following an accident, the owner or person in charge  
 7 of hoisting equipment must immediately notify the DOB  
 8 and cease operation of the equipment, id. § 28-3316.3;  
 9
- 10 • hoisting equipment must: be designed, constructed,  
 11 and maintained in accordance with DOB rules; be  
 12 approved by the DOB; and display appropriate permits,  
 13 id. §§ 28-3316.4-.5, .8;  
 14
- 15 • hoist ropes must be regularly inspected and replaced  
 16 in accordance with DOB rules, id. § 28-3316.6; and  
 17
- 18 • operators of hoisting equipment must be qualified to  
 19 operate the equipment and must lock it before leaving,  
 20 id. § 28-3316.7.

21 A separate set of requirements applies more specifically to  
 22 cranes and derricks. See id. § 28-3319. These include a  
 23 requirement that "[n]o owner or other person shall authorize  
 24 or permit the operation of any crane or derrick without a  
 25 certificate of approval, a certificate of operation and a

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<sup>3</sup> The City regulations apply broadly to "hoisting equipment," defined as "[e]quipment used to raise and lower personnel and/or material with intermittent motion." N.Y.C. Admin. Code § 28-3302.1. That includes "power operated machine[s] used for lifting or lowering a load," including but not limited to "a crane, derrick, cableway and hydraulic lifting system, and articulating booms." Id.

1 certificate of on-site inspection." Id. § 28-3319.3; see  
2 also id. § 28-3319.4-.6. The crane and derrick requirements  
3 do not apply to "cranes or derricks used in industrial or  
4 commercial plants." Id. § 28-3319.3(6).

5 Even more stringent requirements are imposed on "tower"  
6 and "climber" cranes.<sup>4</sup> See id. § 28-3319.8. For these  
7 contraptions, a licensed engineer must submit a detailed  
8 plan for "erection, jumping, climbing, and dismantling."  
9 Id. § 28-3319.8.1. Before operating such a crane, the  
10 general contractor must conduct a "safety coordination"  
11 meeting with a licensed engineer, the crane operator, and  
12 other designated individuals. Id. § 28-3319.8.2. In  
13 addition, the DOB publishes "Reference Standards" ("RS")  
14 governing this equipment.<sup>5</sup>

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<sup>4</sup> A tower crane is a crane that is mounted on a vertical mast or tower, and a climber crane is a crane supported by a building that can be raised or lowered to different floors of the building. Id. § 28-3302.

<sup>5</sup> For example, RS 19-2 regulates the design, construction, and testing of "power operated cranes and derricks." Mobile cranes constructed prior to October 2006 must comply with standards promulgated by the American National Standards Institute ("ANSI") in 1968. RS 19-2 § 4.1.1; see ANSI Standard B30.5 (1968). Mobile cranes constructed after October 2006 must comply with one of two standards promulgated in 2004. RS 19-2 § 4.1.2; see ANSI Standard B30.5 (2004); European Comm. for Standardization CEN EN 13000 (2004).

1 To enforce this regulatory scheme, the DOB issues a  
2 stop-work order if it finds that any crane, derrick, or  
3 hoisting machine is "dangerous or unsafe." RS 19-2 § 9.1.  
4 In sum, the City's statutes and regulations provide a  
5 comprehensive framework to regulate the design,  
6 construction, and operation of cranes, derricks, and other  
7 hoisting equipment in the City.

#### 8 9 IV

10 The Steel Institute argues that the City's crane  
11 regulations are preempted by the Act and OSHA regulations  
12 because they impose occupational health and safety standards  
13 in an area where federal standards already exist. The City  
14 responds that its regulations are not preempted under the  
15 analysis in Gade v. National Solid Wastes Management Ass'n,  
16 505 U.S. 88 (1992), and that, even if they are, they are  
17 saved by the exception afforded by Gade for laws of general  
18 applicability.

19 Preemption can be either express or implied. Id. at  
20 98. Implied preemption may take the form of field  
21 preemption (if the federal scheme is so pervasive as to  
22 displace any state regulation in that field) or conflict

1   preemption (if state regulation makes compliance with  
2   federal law impossible or otherwise frustrates the  
3   objectives of Congress). Id.; see also N.Y. SMSA Ltd.  
4   P'ship v. Town of Clarkstown, 612 F.3d 97, 104 (2d Cir.  
5   2010) (per curiam).

6           There is a strong presumption against preemption when  
7   states and localities "exercise[] their police powers to  
8   protect the health and safety of their citizens."

9   Medtronic, Inc. v. Lohr, 518 U.S. 470, 475, 484-85 (1996).

10   "Because of the role of States as separate sovereigns in our  
11   federal system, we have long presumed that state laws . . .

12   that are within the scope of the States' historic police  
13   powers . . . are not to be pre-empted by a federal statute

14   unless it is the clear and manifest purpose of Congress to

15   do so." Geier v. Am. Honda Motor Co., 529 U.S. 861, 894

16   (2000) (Stevens, J., dissenting); see also N.Y. SMSA Ltd.

17   P'ship, 612 F.3d at 104. "Protection of the safety of

18   persons is one of the traditional uses of the police power,"

19   which is "one of the least limitable of governmental

20   powers." Queenside Hills Realty Co. v. Saxl, 328 U.S. 80,

21   82-83 (1946).

1 Here, New York City has exercised its fundamental  
2 police power to protect public safety, but has done so by  
3 regulating an area where federal occupational standards  
4 exist. Gade controls. In that case, Illinois enacted  
5 statutes regulating the licensing and training of employees  
6 who work with hazardous waste. Gade, 505 U.S. at 91. The  
7 issue was whether the Illinois regime was preempted by OSHA  
8 regulations on "Hazardous Waste Operations and Emergency  
9 Response," which included training requirements for  
10 hazardous waste workers. Id. at 92.

11 The Court characterized the Illinois laws as "dual  
12 impact" statutes because they "protect[ed] both workers and  
13 the general public." Id. at 91. A plurality of the Court  
14 held that the Act displaced conflicting state rules through  
15 implied conflict preemption (there being no express  
16 preemption in the Act).<sup>6</sup> Id. at 98-99 (O'Connor, J.,  
17 plurality op.). Viewing the Act as a whole, the Court  
18 concluded that it "precludes any state regulation of an  
19 occupational safety or health issue with respect to which a  
20 federal standard has been established, unless a state plan

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<sup>6</sup> Justice Kennedy's separate concurrence opined that the Act expressly preempts state occupational safety and health standards. Id. at 111-12 (Kennedy, J., concurring).

1 has been submitted and approved pursuant to § 18(b)." Id.  
2 at 102.

3 The Gade Court rejected the state's argument that dual  
4 impact statutes are not preempted. Id. at 104-05.

5 "Although 'part of the pre-empted field is defined by  
6 reference to the *purpose* of the state law in  
7 question, . . . another part of the field is defined by the  
8 state law's *actual effect*.'" Id. at 105 (quoting English v.  
9 Gen. Elec. Co., 496 U.S. 72, 84 (1990)) (emphases added).

10 Accordingly, a state law that "constitutes, in a direct,  
11 clear and substantial way, regulation of worker health and  
12 safety" is preempted under the Act. Id. at 107 (internal  
13 quotation marks omitted).

14 Critically, the Court recognized an exception for state  
15 and local regulations that are of "general applicability."  
16 Id. But the Court held that because the Illinois statutes  
17 were primarily "directed at workplace safety," they were not  
18 laws of general applicability and therefore succumbed to  
19 preemption. Id. at 107-08.

20 The New York City crane regulations are unquestionably  
21 "dual impact" regulations. For the most part, they are  
22 intended to protect public safety and welfare. See N.Y.C.

1 Admin. Code § 28-101.2. There is considerable evidence of  
2 accident risks posed by cranes, derricks, and other hoisting  
3 equipment. See, e.g., Steel Inst., 832 F. Supp. 2d at 314;  
4 J.A. 134-97. Many of the provisions are specifically  
5 designed to protect the safety of the general public in the  
6 vicinity of cranes and other hoisting equipment. See, e.g.,  
7 RS 19-2 § 23.3.5 (prohibiting loads from being carried over  
8 occupied buildings unless top two floors are evacuated).  
9 The risk to the public in New York City is substantial and  
10 palpable.<sup>7</sup>

11 That is the *purpose* of the City regulations; we must  
12 also gauge their *effect*. Gade, 505 U.S. at 105. In their  
13 effect, the regulations protect worker health and safety in  
14 a "direct, clear and substantial" way. Id. at 107. For  
15 example, Section 3316.7 of the Building Code provides that

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<sup>7</sup> During Hurricane Sandy in October 2012, a crane collapsed and dangled over West 57th Street in Manhattan for nearly a week. See, e.g., Charles V. Bagli, As Crane Hung in the Sky, a Drama Unfolded to Prevent a Catastrophe Below, N.Y. TIMES, Nov. 6, 2012. Public accounts suggest that City DOB inspectors had found problems with the crane's wire ropes in the months before the accident and halted work on the site for over a week in September 2012. Kerry Burke et al., Crane Collapse in Midtown Manhattan as Hurricane Sandy Storms into the East Coast, N.Y. DAILY NEWS, Oct. 29, 2012. And it was City DOB inspectors who were on site to inspect the crane after it was repaired. Josh Barbanel, High Drama With Crane Comes to an End, WALL ST. J., Nov. 4, 2012.

1 only designated, specially qualified workers may operate  
2 hoisting equipment. See N.Y.C. Admin. Code § 28-3316.7.  
3 Similarly, the regulations require that a detailed plan be  
4 submitted for the use of tower or climber cranes, and a  
5 safety meeting must be held before a crane is "jumped." Id.  
6 § 28-3319.8. While these restrictions protect the general  
7 safety of those near and around construction sites, the  
8 direct and immediate effect is to protect workers at the  
9 site.

10 The federal standards here--on "Cranes and Derricks in  
11 Construction" and "Cranes and Derricks Used in Demolition  
12 and Underground Construction"--regulate the same things,  
13 i.e., the use of "power-operated equipment," including  
14 cranes, derricks, and other hoisting equipment, "when used  
15 in construction." 29 C.F.R. § 1926.1400(a). The City  
16 regulations may employ different means, but they nonetheless  
17 constitute "regulation of an occupational safety or health  
18 issue with respect to which a federal standard has been  
19 established." Gade, 505 U.S. at 102. Under Gade, the  
20 City's crane regulations are preempted unless they are saved  
21 from preemption as laws of general applicability.



1        Gade exempts from preemption "state laws of general  
2 applicability (such as laws regarding traffic safety or fire  
3 safety) that do not conflict with OSHA standards and that  
4 regulate the conduct of workers and nonworkers alike." 505  
5 U.S. at 107. Even a law that directly and substantially  
6 protects workers "cannot fairly be characterized as [an]  
7 'occupational' standard[]" if it "regulate[s] workers simply  
8 as members of the general public." Id. But a law "directed  
9 at workplace safety" will not be saved from preemption. Id.

10        The Gade exception saves the City regulations from  
11 preemption because they are of general applicability. They  
12 do not conflict with OSHA standards; at most, the City's  
13 regulations provide additional or supplemental requirements  
14 on some areas regulated by OSHA. By their terms they apply  
15 to the conduct of workers and nonworkers alike.<sup>8</sup>

16        Most importantly, the City regulations are not directed  
17 at safety in the workplace. In Gade, the preempted state  
18 laws imposed licensing requirements on "hazardous waste

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<sup>8</sup> For example, Section 3316.3, which requires that hoisting accidents be reported to the DOB, applies to the "owner or person directly in charge of" the hoisting equipment. N.Y.C. Admin. Code § 28-3316.3. Similarly, Section 3319.3 requires various certificates for the operation of a crane or derrick and applies to "owner[s] or other person[s]." Id. § 28-3319.3.

1 equipment operators and laborers *working at certain*  
2 *facilities.*" 505 U.S. at 93 (emphasis added). That law was  
3 not saved from preemption as a law of general applicability  
4 because it was "directed at *workplace safety.*" Id. at 107  
5 (emphasis added). Gade's holding reflects the plain  
6 language of the Occupational Safety and Health Act, which  
7 focuses only on "employment performed *in a workplace.*" 29  
8 U.S.C. § 653(a) (emphasis added). Congress intended that  
9 the Act help "reduce the number of occupational safety and  
10 health hazards *at their places of employment.*" Id.  
11 § 651(b)(1) (emphasis added); see also id. § 654 (requiring  
12 employers to furnish employees with "a place of employment"  
13 free from hazards).

14 New York's crane regulations, by contrast, apply all  
15 over the City, not just in workplaces or construction sites.  
16 As the district court found, New York City is always  
17 undergoing construction, and construction risks are by no  
18 means confined to a single building or lot.<sup>9</sup> "Cranes, which  
19 can be as tall as 1800 feet, and move loads as heavy as 825  
20 tons, do not confine themselves to the property on which

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<sup>9</sup> When a person hoists a piano into his attic, the risk is between him and his piano; if he hoists it above a pulsing avenue, the risk is not contained and the peril is of a general kind.

1 they are being used when they break, or worse, collapse;  
2 they inevitably damage surrounding buildings and risk  
3 injuring people in their homes and on the street." Steel  
4 Inst., 832 F. Supp. 2d at 314 (internal citation omitted).  
5 A salient feature of the City's regime is that crane  
6 activity confined to a workplace is *expressly excluded* from  
7 the scope of the City regulations: the regulations do not  
8 apply "to cranes or derricks used in industrial or  
9 commercial plants or yards" (unless used for construction of  
10 the facility itself). N.Y.C. Admin. Code § 3319.3(6). The  
11 City regulations therefore are directed at public safety  
12 even though they achieve this goal, in part and  
13 incidentally, by regulating the conduct of workers.

14 Police powers that protect everyone in the City will  
15 naturally regulate some workers. Many of the regulations  
16 that protect New Yorkers on a daily basis may bear upon the  
17 conduct of workers, but nonetheless can be considered laws  
18 of general applicability. They are specific applications of  
19 a general prohibition on conduct that endangers the  
20 populace, such as taxi regulations that protect drivers  
21 while protecting passengers and pedestrians. The point is  
22 best appreciated by imagining the crowded city without such  
23 regulations.

1           The Supreme Court cited fire and traffic safety laws as  
2 prime examples. Gade, 505 U.S. at 107. Consider a state or  
3 local regulation concerning the use of bridges and tunnels  
4 by drivers of rigs carrying explosive materials. OSHA may  
5 protect truck drivers, and may specifically protect truck  
6 drivers who are moving explosive loads. But the state or  
7 local regulation is not *directed at a workplace*: its main  
8 concern is the safety of the population, and the security of  
9 the infrastructure. A regulated truck driver, like any  
10 member of the general public, cannot expose fellow citizens  
11 to unreasonable danger. The City's crane regulations, like  
12 fire codes and traffic laws, are an exercise of the police  
13 power to protect the safety of the public in a crowded  
14 metropolis.<sup>10</sup>

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<sup>10</sup> A further example: New York's Fire Code regulates the use of welding devices. See N.Y.C. Rules of the Fire Dep't § 2609-01(b). The regulations apply to anyone who picks up a welding torch, and are presumably intended both to protect the welder from injury and to protect New York's dense city blocks from fire. OSHA also regulates welding, but pursuant to its congressional mandate, it does so for the safety and health of covered workers. See Subpart Q--Welding, Cutting and Brazing, 29 C.F.R. § 1910.251-.255. The City's fire safety requirements, although they may directly and substantially protect workers, would be laws of general applicability saved from preemption. See Gade, 505 U.S. at 107.

1           The Steel Institute relies heavily on the Eleventh  
2   Circuit's decision in Associated Builders & Contractors  
3   Florida East Coast Chapter v. Miami-Dade County, 594 F.3d  
4   1321 (11th Cir. 2010) (per curiam). Miami's wind-load  
5   standard for tower cranes was held to be preempted by OSHA  
6   regulations on the same subject. Id. at 1323. Even if it  
7   were binding on us, which of course it is not, the case is  
8   distinguishable. The ordinance was not a public safety  
9   measure because in Miami "[c]onstruction job sites are  
10   closed to the public and it is undisputed that the  
11   Ordinance's wind load standards regulate how *workers* use and  
12   erect tower cranes during the course of their employment."  
13   Id. at 1324. It was deemed significant that Miami "failed  
14   to identify a single incident in which a crane accident  
15   injured a member of the general public during a hurricane."  
16   Id. Moreover, although the Eleventh Circuit cited Gade, it  
17   did not consider whether Miami's ordinance could be saved  
18   from preemption as a law of general applicability. Id.

19           In sum, the City's crane regulations are dual impact  
20   regulations that affect both public safety and worker  
21   conduct. Because there is a federal standard in place  
22   addressing much the same conduct, the City regulations are  
23   preempted unless exempt under Gade as laws of general

1 applicability. We conclude that they are laws of general  
2 applicability, not directed at the workplace, that regulate  
3 workers as members of the general public, and are therefore  
4 saved from preemption.

5  
6 **v**

7 The parties dispute whether deference is owed to the  
8 Department of Labor's views on whether the City's crane  
9 regulations are preempted. We do not defer to an agency's  
10 legal conclusion regarding preemption, but we give "some  
11 weight" to an agency's explanation of how state or local  
12 laws may affect the federal regulatory scheme. Wyeth v.  
13 Levine, 555 U.S. 555, 576-77 (2009); see also Geier v. Am.  
14 Honda Motor Co., 529 U.S. 861, 883 (2000). "The weight we  
15 accord the agency's explanation of state law's impact on the  
16 federal scheme depends on its thoroughness, consistency, and  
17 persuasiveness." Wyeth, 555 U.S. at 577 (citing United  
18 States v. Mead Corp., 533 U.S. 218, 234-35 (2001), and  
19 Skidmore v. Swift & Co., 323 U.S. 134, 140 (1944)).

20 OSHA cannot tell us whether the City regulations are  
21 preempted or whether the Gade exception applies. But we are  
22 reassured by OSHA's view--to the extent that it is based on  
23 OSHA's long experience in formulating and administering

1 nationwide workplace standards--that the City regulations  
2 (and other municipal codes like it) do not interfere with  
3 OSHA's regulatory scheme.

4 The preamble to the 2010 amendments of OSHA's crane  
5 regulations specifically references this case and states  
6 that the City's crane regulations are not preempted. 75  
7 Fed. Reg. at 48,129. The Department, now as amicus, takes  
8 the same position. That view is consistent with  
9 longstanding OSHA policy. For example, in 1972, OSHA issued  
10 a policy statement addressing local fire regulations:

11 It is the belief of [OSHA] that it was not Congress'  
12 intent in passing the Act to preempt these extensive  
13 [fire regulation] activities with respect to places of  
14 employment covered by the Act. While there is an  
15 overlap of jurisdiction in workplaces, [OSHA] feels  
16 that the much broader goals of fire marshals'  
17 activities preclude their being preempted.

18  
19 OSHA Policy Statement Concerning State & Local Fire Marshall  
20 Activities, at 1 (1972) (cited in Mem. of Law of the  
21 Secretary of Labor as Amicus Curiae in Support of Defendant  
22 ("Dist. Ct. Amicus Br."), Att. 3, Steel Inst. of N.Y. v.  
23 City of N.Y., No. 09-cv-6539 (S.D.N.Y. Jan. 6, 2011)).

24 Similarly, a 1981 OSHA directive indicated that "[s]tate  
25 enforcement of standards which on their face are  
26 predominantly for the purpose of protecting a class of  
27 persons larger than employees" would not be preempted, even

1 when a federal standard is in place. OSHA, The Effect of  
2 Preemption on the State Agencies Without 18(b) Plans, at 2  
3 (1981) (cited in Dist. Ct. Amicus Br., Att. 4).

4 In 1992, the United States (on behalf of the Department  
5 of Labor) submitted an amicus brief in Gade, advocating the  
6 view--partly adopted by the Court--that "[a] state law of  
7 general applicability that only incidentally affects  
8 workers, not as a class, but as members of the general  
9 public, cannot fairly be described as an 'occupational'  
10 standard." Br. for the U.S. as Amicus Curiae Supporting  
11 Resp't, at 24 n.14, Gade v. Nat'l Solid Wastes Mgmt. Ass'n,  
12 No. 90-1676 (Mar. 2, 1992) (cited in Dist. Ct. Amicus Br.,  
13 Att. 5). "[The Act] does not typically preempt state fire  
14 protection, boiler inspection, or building and electrical  
15 code requirements, even though there are OSHA standards on  
16 these subjects, because the state standards do not aim to  
17 protect workers as a class, and do not have that primary  
18 effect." Id.

19 Although no deference is compelled, we grant "some  
20 weight" to OSHA's view in reaching our conclusion that local  
21 regulatory schemes such as the City's crane regulations have  
22 the aim and primary effect of regulating conduct to secure



1 the safety of the general public, rather than the safety of  
2 workers in the workplace.

3 The City's crane regulations are saved from preemption  
4 as laws of general applicability. The judgment is affirmed.